

REMARKS

Claims 31-37 are currently pending in the subject application. The Examiner has required an election. Applicant elects Species Group ID, selecting claims 31 and 35-37 for prosecution in the present application.

The present election is being made with traverse. Applicant submits that it is well established that:

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, *even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions*. M.P.E.P. § 803 (emphasis added).

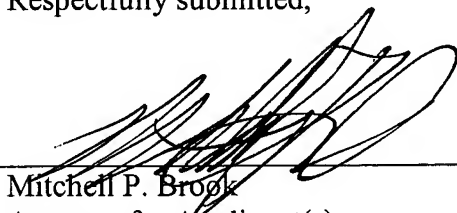
A proper search for art related to the elected Group would necessarily include the classes and subclasses relevant to a search for the non-elected Groups. Thus, examination of all the claims would not present a "serious burden" on the Examiner. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the present restriction requirement be withdrawn.

Based on the foregoing, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the claims is solicited. If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this and concurrent replies to charge payment (or credit any overpayment) to Deposit Account No. 50-2298 for any additional required fees.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

3/3/06



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